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LETTER DATED 5 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement issued by the Spokesman for the Revolution Command Council of Iraq on the evening of Thursday, 4 May 1995, concerning the remarks made by the President of the Republic of Turkey relating to the boundaries between Iraq and Turkey.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement issued on 4 May 1995 by the Spokesman for the Revolution Command Council of Iraq

Iraq has reacted with strong condemnation to the statements attributed to Mr. Süleyman Demirel, President of the Republic of Turkey, calling for a redefinition of the boundaries between Iraq and Turkey on the pretext of combating terrorism. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having been instructed to seek clarification of these statements from the Turkish Government, received this morning from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad a paper setting forth the position of the Turkish Government on the matter.

The clarification provided by the Turkish Government does not actually deny that Turkish officials are considering this matter or that they began doing so before consulting Iraq and without seeking its views. This is something we condemn in the strongest terms. We have issued a strong warning concerning the military incursion into northern Iraq carried out by Turkey, and we have alluded to the suspect motives that accompany it and that go beyond the pretexts given for it by the Turkish Government. We have also cautioned against the open collusion between the Turkish Government and the United States Administration in regard to this operation. The statements of the Turkish President throw new light on the true goals of the incursion and on the hostile schemes of the United States aimed against Iraq and its sovereignty and national unity, including Security Council resolution 986 (1995) and its relation to the situation in the northern part of the country.

Iraq refuses to discuss the matter and warns Turkey against taking any unilateral step that may infringe upon the national borders. Iraq shall resist any such action by all legitimate means, and nothing shall prevent it from doing so.

Iraqi citizens in the autonomous region are urged to exercise vigilance and to be alert to this and other questionable Turkish and American schemes. In another respect, these statements reveal the objectives of the aerial exclusion zone that has been maintained by the United States in the north of the country since 1991. The Turkish Government bears a fundamental responsibility for this for having permitted the stationing of United States and British aircraft in its territory, and it has also continued to engage in actions that violate Iraq's sovereignty.

The Government of France must define its position on the matter of the aerial exclusion zone and must end its symbolic participation in it as an expression of the assurances it has constantly given concerning respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq, as affirmed by all the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The League of Arab States, the United Nations, the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the international community in general must caution Turkey against infringing on the Iraqi-Turkish boundaries and against interfering in the internal affairs of Iraq.

The position paper handed over to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad reads as follows:

Talking points

- It is a well-known fact that at the time in question the common boundaries of Iraq and Turkey were drawn in accordance with the nature of the topography of the area and without taking account of the security requirements of the two countries, particularly the requirements relevant to preventing terrorist infiltration.

- In the past, the difficulties arising from this situation have been expressed from time to time at various levels of the State.

- It is natural that public opinion should seek to discuss the legitimate fears and problems caused by the boundary line, particularly at a time when thought is being given to the measures to be taken following the Turkish operation in northern Iraq.

- Nevertheless, a solution to the problems relating to the common borders can only be achieved by (1) consultation between the two countries to determine requirements and (2) the expression of a joint political will to reach such a solution and to do so in a manner that does not have an adverse impact on the interests of the two countries.

- In the course of a recent talk with members of the Turkish information media, the exact remarks made by the President of the Republic of Turkey in addressing this matter were as follows:

"The Iraqi-Turkish boundaries are not correct, but the settlement of this problem is not under discussion at the present moment."

- Accordingly, any other remarks attributed to the President of the Republic of Turkey in the course of the said talk with the Turkish information media are completely out of place.